







THE PROPOSED AQUATIC PARK AT BLACK POINT COVE.

The Recreation League has worked consistently for four years for this project. The site now belongs to the city.

Annual Report of the

# Recreation League

of San Francisco, May, 1917

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1917-1918

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EUSTACE M. PEIXOTTO

JAMES EDWARD ROGERS

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Membership .....ADOLF KOSHLAND  
Ways and Means.....ALEXANDER RUSSELL

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## SECTIONS AND CHAIRMEN

Aquatic .....WALTER McARTHUR  
Art .....LOUIS CHRISTIAN MULLGARDT  
Boys .....DR. GEORGE H. RICHARDSON  
Commercialized Recreation .....MRS. LOUIS HERTZ  
Drama Pageant.....MRS. D. E. F. EASTON  
Girls .....MISS BLANCHE A. SON  
Music .....REDFERN MASON  
Parks and Playgrounds.....I. BECK  
School Recreation and Athletics.....FRED. W. KOCH  
Social Center.....GEORGE C. TURNER

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

THE Recreation League has become accepted as one of the dominant factors in influence for good in the civic life of San Francisco, and this is a peculiarly appropriate time to recognize that fact. We have our monthly luncheons, at which we receive and discuss reports of our Executive Secretary and of the heads of our various Sections and at which we listen to addresses from men and women who are leaders of thought in the subjects with which they occupy themselves and about which they speak to us. During the past year we have had some memorable experiences along these lines. The Chairman of our Program Committee, Mrs. E. L. Baldwin, cannot be sufficiently commended for her indefatigable industry in making these reunions notable. How efficient has been her work has been evidenced by the constantly increasing attendance at these luncheons.

But there is something unique about an annual meeting. It is not simply an occasion for selecting officers to shape and guide the destinies of the League for the ensuing year, but it is primarily an occasion for rendering an account of their stewardship by those to whom these destinies had been entrusted for the year just ending. I know at least this, that for those who have been steering the ship during the past year, and whatever the results accomplished, the responsibility has been a labor of love. The work of my associates in their efforts to realize our purpose, to foster play among the people, and the love for it has been beyond praise. My own part in this work has been very modest and very limited, but not from any lack of faith in the cause or of enthusiasm for the things for which the League stands. I know that others can fill the place which I have now occupied for so many years with the greatest of pride, much better than I can. Whenever I resign that office it will be with something of a heart-pang, and yet I have been so free as to urge upon the Nominating Committee to find a successor for me. If they have not adopted my advice, you would do right in that one particular to reject their recommendations.

I know that they have been asked by Mr. Peixotto to find a new Executive Secretary because of his call to another task, higher because of the sacrifice and risk involved, and yet not more distinguished than the one which he has filled so admirably for us. Whoever may have been selected by the Nominating Committee to take his place, the loss to the League of the services of Eustace M. Peixotto will be nothing short of a calamity. You all know him and that he would fill any position acceptably, but he has been an ideal executive for the League. I know that nothing would have tempted him to desert us except a sense of duty to his country in the present great crisis, so that we must not murmur, and I know further that his heart will always remain behind with us.

As already said, there is even under normal conditions something unique about the annual meeting of such an organization as ours. It ramifies in so many different directions, it affiliates with so many interests and activities, that there is no portion even of this large community that it does not affect. I like to think of the Recreation League as the heart

of San Francisco and as its clearing house. It certainly does pulsate for everything that makes for the greater happiness of its people. But this meeting is not held under normal conditions. The Nation has entered upon the greatest and most cruel and most destructive war that the world has ever known. We cannot tell how long it will last or what misery it will bring to our people. Is there anything, then, indelicate or incongruous in continuing our activities under such circumstances? I have no doubt that there is not. On the contrary, my friends, it is my solemn conviction that there never was a time when there was a greater need for such an organization as ours than the present. Just because our hearts will be heavy with anxiety for those of our dear ones that will have been called to the colors and because we shall be shedding bitter tears for those who will have been taken from us for all time, we must bestir ourselves to bring what comfort and cheer and sunshine we can to those so afflicted, not alone in the form of sympathy and aid but in wholesome diversion and recreation, so that they may be the better able to bear the added burdens and responsibilities that are now being thrust upon them. This will require infinite patience and perseverance and tact on our part, but I know the League to be equal to the task. May our efforts in this direction be not long required, but while they are, may they be crowned with the success that they deserve.

JESSE W. LILIENTHAL, President.

May 17, 1917.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. President and Members of the Recreation League:

Since the last annual meeting of the Recreation League we have made definite forward steps in a number of important projects for which the League has been working since its organization in 1913. We have never had an annual report in which the projected Aquatic Park in Black Point Cove has not occupied a prominent place. This year a trade between the city and the Southern Pacific Railroad, which can give the needed land, has been negotiated, and, at the present writing, is virtually concluded. At one time the exchange was so arranged that the Aquatic Park was assured, but in its present form it would be unsafe to say positively that more than the beginning of the project is certain. The League must continue its vigilance and its efforts to see that we finally obtain what we are after. The road has fewer bumps than it had a year ago but it is not yet a state highway.

For some time the League has striven to have our small parks converted into playgrounds, thereby serving a greater usefulness. The past year has seen Lobos Square resurrected from the debris of the Zone, renamed Funston Playground, and formally, though not actually, placed under the jurisdiction of the Playground Commission. The Park Commission has pledged one-half of Jefferson Square, the subject of prolonged agitation by the League, as a playground when funds for its conversion are available, and we are to see in the near future development along playground lines in the Mission Park.

It is not always easy for private and public bodies to work in harmony and it is, therefore, pleasing to be able to record the fact that during the period covered by this report the relations between the League and the city commissions dealing with recreation have been unusually cordial, especially with the Playground Commission and Board of Education. We have found public officials ready to listen to our suggestions and, as far as possible, to carry out our projects. The realization of this attitude must, and I believe has, made us more cautious with the propositions we put forward. Demanding the impossible of those in public office is merely embarrassing to them. It does neither the asker nor the community any real good. It is frequently done, however, as a

means of publicity to the petitioner. The League has been big enough to refrain from using such tactics. We have generally felt our way before making public requests, with the result that, not only have our pleas been granted, but also we have, by our methods, inspired confidence in our judgment.

Our sections have continued their usual pursuits, the most active being the Aquatic Section and the Drama-Pageant Section. The work of the latter is especially noteworthy. For the first time in the history of San Francisco public holidays have been celebrated by real civic pageants. The performances on Columbus Day and Christmas Eve, conducted under the personal direction of Mrs. D. E. F. Easton, the chairman of our Drama-Pageant Section, are surely the beginning of a new era in this regard. A Special Committee on the development of Community Drama has commenced its work with enthusiasm, but this group has determined to defer an endeavor towards practical results till after the summer vacation. Its preliminary organization and the interest manifested are most satisfactory.

Our Community Singing Committee has come through a year of trial and has learned many things to do and many things not to do. My own feeling is that in future this work must be placed on a broader basis; that the spirit of Community Singing is the thing to foster first. We must have people singing and enjoying it, even though their efforts be unmusical, before we can inculcate theory and note reading into their minds.

If I were asked the greatest single function of the League, I would always say that the maintenance of its offices as a headquarters for all organizations connected with recreation transcends in importance the special work done by any section, important as that may be. The following associations use our rooms as their regular headquarters. Their variety shows the essential breadth of our work: Pacific Association of the Amateur Athletic Union, Drama League of America, Lincoln Park Golf Club, Mountain Play Association, San Francisco Athletic League, Pacific Association of Amateur Oarsmen, the San Francisco Choral Society and the Recreation Committee of the S. F. Congress of Mothers. Besides these, we have been the official headquarters of the Municipal Columbus Day and Christmas Eve Celebrations committees, and the occasional meeting place of many other committees and organizations outside of our own groups. It is the close touch that we are able to keep with the organizations doing actual work in our field that enables us to be efficient. Our Boys' and Girls' sections have become essentially clearing houses for the city for all workers interested in their respective provinces. All of these now look to the League and to each other for help and guidance.

Our number of affiliated organizations has increased by twenty this year, the Alpine Club, Young Men's Hebrew Association, Ariel Boating Club, Columbus Mothers' Club, Denman Mothers' Club, Daniel Webster Mothers' Club, Edison Mothers' Club, Emerson Mothers' Club, Fremont Mothers' Club, Garfield Mothers' Club, Hawthorne Mothers' Club, James Lick Mothers' Club, Mission High School Mothers' Club, Parkside Mothers' Club, Polytechnic Mothers' Club, Redding Mothers' Club, Sherman Mothers' Club, San Francisco State Normal School Mothers' Club, Visitacion Mothers' Club and the Washington Irving Mothers' Club having joined us. This gives a total of 104. The League's offices have been used for 207 regularly called and recorded meetings between May 1, 1916, and May 1, 1917, besides almost innumerable personal conferences with the secretary, section chairman and various smaller groups which do not appear in the records but average at least two or three a day.

So much for the past and present. Looking into the future, we must realize that the League now stands face to face with a situation where many people will not see the use for its existence. It is, therefore, all the more urgent that those who realize that war conditions mean increasingly that necessary relaxation and proper amusement surroundings be maintained should see to it that the League's work is continued.

Most of you already know that I feel that my first call for the coming year must be in fields other than that of recreation. The call I heed will not and should not affect more than a very small proportion of our membership. Those who fight today offer themselves in the hope of a better future for mankind, but that is a fight that must be kept up at home as well as abroad. It is for those who remain behind to see to it that the next generation, as well as the present, is not sacrificed. The "Spirit of Youth," as Jane Addams so aptly called it, is the breath of our life, the joy of our existence no matter how old we grow. One in whom it is dead, is dead, though his body may still be quick. It is like a stream, sometimes broad and smooth, sometimes rippling past, and gradually wearing away the great boulders, sometimes stopping for a while in stagnant pools, sometimes disappearing altogether in the sands and then bubbling up in the desert and making

the earth green. It is the drink that revives the jaded toiler, that makes the soldier on the battlefield laugh and joke about the death he faces. It is our province, yes, our duty, to see that this stream is not polluted at its source, to remove from it the log jams and to see that it flows uninterrupted in its course, until, at the end of the long journey, it reaches the boundless ocean.

This is the work of those who believe in recreation, in the life that smiles without smirking, which gives joy as relief from care. This work is always to be done, war or peace, till the sun sets on the last man.

Respectfully submitted,

EUSTACE M. PEIXOTTO, Secretary.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Receipts, Expenditures from April 1, 1916, to April 1, 1917:

Cash on hand April 1, 1916.....		\$310.39
Rent account .....	\$ 768.00	
Postage account .....	166.75	
Stationery account .....	205.36	
Community Singing account.....	31.10	
Office equipment .....	53.70	
Recreation Bulletin .....	260.55	
Clerical help .....	660.00	
Telephone, telegraph, general expense	530.42	
Cash on hand April 1, 1917.....	292.11	
Income account .....		2,657.60
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$2,967.99	\$2,967.99

## COMMUNITY SINGING.

The first year's work of Community Singing in San Francisco has been one of experiment, much hard work, a good deal of disappointment and a worth-while residuum of achievement.

Our first need was well-equipped teachers. Not every good musician has the social gifts and enthusiasm that make for the diffusion of the love of song among the people. We have been happy to secure the services of such men as Alfred E. McMillin, Achille Artigues, Johannes Raith, Russell Dill, Mynard Jones and George Stewart McManus.

The Board of Education solved a rather difficult problem by granting the free use of the schools and, thanks to the co-operation of Mr. Edward DeGroot, community singing is to be an integral factor of social center work.

Some eight or nine attempts have been made to found centers. Two of the centers seem to have attained permanence; others are in a state of suspended animation. Others have resulted in failure.

At North Beach we failed for lack of a suitable place and an Italian teacher.

Mr. Artigues formed a class at the Arrillaga Musical College and today the Achille Artigues class has a membership of about sixty and an average weekly attendance of forty.

The Richmond center, at Sutro school, only drew a handful of students; but Johannes Raith is willing to make another attempt.

Laguna Honda school, in the Sunset District, under Mr. McMillin, met with varying success, the attendance rising as high as fifty, but-interest has fallen off and the class is suspended, but not given up.

At the Girls' Club, Capp street, an attempt was made to combine the existing classes with community singing. The attempt was not successful, but, in view of the recent establishment of a musical settlement, it is hoped to make another beginning.

The center for employees of the Emporium was a half success for a time. It proved impossible, however, to hold together tired workers for a couple of hours after the day's work was done.

The Visitation center, under Mr. McMillin, has an attendance of some forty people. The remoteness of the center from public amusements is a help and music is turned to as a social distraction as well as for its educational value.

Outside the city, Mr. Mynard Jones has established a center at Concord, where he has a chorus of forty. They gave a concert a few days ago and did admirable work.

# REPORTS OF SECTIONS AND COMMITTEES

## REPORT OF THE AQUATIC SECTION

In accordance with the suggestion of the Aquatic Section, looking to the establishment of an aquatic park at Black Point Cove, a board of appraisers was appointed by the Board of Supervisors, for the purpose of determining the relative values of the lands owned by the city and by the Southern Pacific Company.

The appraisers reported that the city lots in the vicinity of the Channel are worth \$818,768.75. The lots owned by the Southern Pacific Company at Black Point Cove, combined with certain other properties contiguous thereto, which the company agreed to purchase and include in the transfer, are worth \$818,976.70.

The report of the appraisers was referred to the Committee on Lands and Tunnels. Several meetings were held, at which the views of opponents and proponents of the proposed exchange were fully presented. As far as the Aquatic Section could learn, there appeared no reason to doubt that the Board of Supervisors would act favorably upon the proposition to make an exchange of the properties involved.

When the matter again came before the Board it was found that the complexion of things had been entirely changed. It was then proposed that the exchange should be made by a transfer to the city of the lands actually owned by the Southern Pacific Company, at Black Point Cove, and a cash payment of \$393,073.50 to cover the difference in value between the company's property and that of the city. No intimation of this change from the proposal originally made by the Aquatic Section and other supporters of the project had been received, nor was any opportunity afforded to make representation in opposition to such change.

The transfer, as thus proposed, was agreed to by the Board of Supervisors. This step, if finally consummated, will give the city possession of certain lots at Black Point Cove, which may be utilized in conjunction with the adjoining lots for the purpose of an aquatic park, but which are otherwise useless for the purpose stated, or possibly for any other immediate purpose.

At the request of the Section, the Executive Board of the League presented a memorial to the Board of Supervisors, setting forth its objections to the plan adopted by the latter and disavowing all responsibility for such plan.

Certain opponents of the aquatic park project have sought to enjoin the Board of Supervisors from consummating the plan of transfer, upon the grounds (1) that the plan is in violation of the Charter, and (2) that the valuation placed upon the city property is much less than the real value.

The court declined to issue an injunction, but stated that the real question of value is subject to determination by judicial proceedings.

There is a possibility that the matter may be made the subject of a referendum at the coming municipal election, with the object of defeating the proposed transfer. The Section has not determined upon its course in the latter event. Should the Board of Supervisors adopt the suggestion offered in the memorial above referred to, namely, that the cash payment received from the Southern Pacific Company be devoted to the purchase of other lands suitable for the development of an aquatic park at Black Point Cove, the Section would be disposed to favor the consummation of the plan as it now stands.

Unless the Board shall take the attitude herein outlined, the interest of the Section in the outcome, either of a proceeding in court or of a referendum, would be hardly more than an abstract one.

The latest developments afford a prospect that the Board of Supervisors may set aside a portion of the money to be received from the Southern Pacific Company for the purpose of purchasing certain pieces of property at Black Point Cove necessary to connect the lands already involved in the exchange with the shore line of the Cove. This step would represent a real beginning of the aquatic park project. The Section favors this proposal as the best that can be hoped for in the present circumstances, and recommends that the League endorse the same.

Respectfully submitted,

WALTER MACARTHUR,  
Chairman Aquatic Section.

San Francisco, Cal., May 11th, 1917.

To the Officers of the Recreation League of San Francisco, 1917-18. Eustace M. Peixotto, Secretary:

## THE ART SECTION

Begs leave to report its activities in connection with improvements made in Hamilton Square, where a Children's Field House and a number of Handball Courts have

been constructed. Also in connection with the Public Playground on Broadway, east of Polk street, where a Field House and other essentials were constructed. Also in Golden Gate Park, where a new Memorial Museum is under construction. This Committee has also been active in conjunction with organized movements of various associations to reconstruct the Court of Ages in permanent materials, presumably in Jefferson Square.

This Committee has also in contemplation the establishment of an Out Door Theater in Golden Gate Park, provided the consent of the Park Commission is attainable. Such an institution we believe would meet with popular acclaim and foster the development of artistic theatrical productions suitable to woodland surroundings.

This Committee has been instrumental in the construction of the Juvenile Court and Detention Home on Otis street.

This Committee has visited Honolulu and delivered a lecture before the Out Door Circle of that city relative to the work being done by the Recreation League of San Francisco, also the work done and to be done in Honolulu.

Respectfully submitted,

THE ART SECTION, RECREATION LEAGUE OF SAN FRANCISCO.

Louis Christian Mullgardt.

## REPORT OF DR. G. H. RICHARDSON,

### Chairman, Boys' Section of Recreation League.

The Boys' Section of the Recreation League has occupied, during the past year, rather a peculiar position. We started the year with considerable enthusiasm, having three objects in view:

(a) The holding annually of a large meeting of the various San Francisco boys' clubs in the Civic Auditorium, with the desire of having them become better acquainted with each other's work.

We appointed a committee and met several times to discuss the plan but the expense involved did not seem to warrant the outlay, so the plan was given up.

(b) We also organized a "Week-end Camp Committee" and, in connection with the Sierra Club, with whom our chairman had several conferences, made tentative plans for work this summer, but this also, as I will explain later, has produced no tangible results, although much valuable preliminary information has been obtained.

(c) We endeavored to compile a list of men from various walks of life, who would volunteer to place themselves at the service of our Section for duty as instructors in special subjects that interested the boy mind. We have a list of these, few, I regret to say, in number, that will be the nucleus of a larger and more complete list, when more work is put on this important phase of boy needs.

I should tonight have given you a synopsis of the new pamphlet I am about to write, on the subject of "How Not to Be a Chairman." My foreword would be to select a position that had not been occupied by someone who was a specialist in the position, before you accepted it. I was unfortunate in following Mr. Eustace Peixotto, who is, as you all know, one of the best boy executives in this city.

My conclusion would be: try to prevent any other organization starting during your term of office that would take the interest and attention of those upon whom, under ordinary conditions, you could rely for work and support.

You all know that during the past year we have developed, in this city, a strong and effective Boy Scout organization. Every man of importance in boy work has shown the nobleness of character to forget his own immediate needs and to lend a hand to those who were in charge of the development of this work.

To attempt to detract from this important programme, by introducing any new and untried ideas, seemed to me to be detrimental to the local boy needs. I have personally put my influence and all the time I could spare in aiding those who were forwarding this movement. Now that it is established, it would seem to me that we can see its limitations and, regulating our work by this knowledge, can plan for broader and more comprehensive work, in which all boy organizations can join, made necessary by the peculiar conditions that the war will produce.

I have in mind a plan, through our Boy Section, of giving the various boy organizations certain districts of the city for which they will be responsible. They could be of service in collecting papers and distributing the messages and circulars which, sooner or later, will have to be sent to each individual home, informing them of those things our Council of Home Defense will require of the people. It does seem that now, of all times, we should try to correlate all the enthusiasm and desire for service that exists in the boy and mould these qualifications into some-

thing that will be beneficial. No one better than the boy, as I know him, can be depended upon "to do their bit" at this important period of our history. He is the best material we have to work upon and will respond in the degree that he is properly led and controlled. I can think of no better thing for our section to consider during the coming year. I do not know who can undertake it. I regret that my Red Cross duties will prevent my undertaking it. Can we not this evening select some one for the position and then back him up?

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE H. RICHARDSON,  
Chairman Boys' Section.

## COMMERCIALIZED RECREATION SECTION REPORT

Mrs. Louis Hertz

Commercialized Recreation Committee has had an unprogressive year. The ordinance calling for a Board of Censors for motion pictures has been repealed, the police department being the sole judges of what should be presented to the public. The managers, however, have been careful not to abuse and there has been little call for censure during the past year.

Your chairman was greatly interested in the production of the fairy play, "Snow Queen," presented at the Girls' High School. Owing to the limited seating capacity of the place, the manager had to charge 50 and 25 cents admission to make expenses. I thought this play, that was so artistic and of educational value, should be given in the Civic Auditorium for the public on a 10 cents admission fee. Upon making an effort in this direction, I found that the Supervisors could not consider the proposition unless the play were subsidized by private means to insure against any deficit.

I therefore recommend that the Recreation League make an effort to have an appropriation of \$500.00 with which they might act as sponsors for any worthy recreation which may be put on a commercial basis.

## REPORT OF THE DRAMA-PAGEANT SECTION

Mrs. D. E. F. Easton, Chairman

The Drama-Pageant Section of the League has been very active during the past year. Under its auspices it gave co-operation to the Mayor's Committee for the celebration of Columbus Day, at which time there was produced an ambitious pageant of three episodes during the life of Columbus. This celebration extended over a period of two days, the Recreation League taking the initiative in the development of the committee and the attendant work. The Christmas Eve Pageant at the Civic Auditorium was organized and developed in the same manner.

As formerly, the Section was actively interested in the annual production on Mount Tamalpais, the 1917 vehicle being a translation of the Danish comedy, "Jeppe on the Hill," a classic by Ludvig Holberg, which was enjoyed by many thousands of people. The pilgrimage to the Mountain Theater is increasing, both in popularity and in the numbers of people who attend.

Through the San Francisco Drama League, the Section has endorsed and supported many of the professional productions and amateur expressions of the Drama.

Each year the Section sends out a new shoot from its dramatic tree. During the year there was organized a committee to further the Community Drama for the purpose of fostering the production of good plays by amateurs. The Community Drama Committee hopes to form a central body for the purpose of giving information to those interested in the spoken drama, whether it be plays in readiness for production or as a bureau of information with regard to good plays and their conservative cost of production. As in all pioneer work, the growth of this new branch of activity is very slow but encouraging.

## REPORT OF THE GIRLS' SECTION

Mr. President and Members of the Recreation League:

In submitting this annual report of the Girls' Section I should like you to consider it in three periods, the first from May until November, while Mrs. Richard Newman was Chairman; the second from November until March, during which time there was no Chairman and no regular meetings; and the third from March until the present time, which has been the short period of my efforts to gather up the loose threads of the Section's former activities.

Thanks to Mrs. Newman's successful efforts, several groups of girls availed

themselves of week-ends at the Y. W. C. A. cottage at Yolanda. Miss O'Rourke's hiking schedule was distributed to members of the Section and all during the summer months many girls from all parts of the city joined the Girls' Club on their bi-monthly hikes.

The Girls' Section co-operated with Miss Krafft of the Social Service School of the San Francisco Polyclinic in giving a course of lectures on Social Psychology, which was most helpful in training leaders for girls' work.

With the Section serving as a clearing house, several parties were arranged for the girls of the Juvenile Court, the Emporium and the Emanu-El Sisterhood being the first groups to come forward in offering to help their less fortunate sisters.

The San Francisco Girls' Swimming Association continued all summer to avail itself of the reduced rates at Sutro Baths. Through the courtesy of Mr. Gutleben, Superintendent of the Municipal Boat House of Oakland, Miss Emma Noonan and Miss O'Rourke both took groups of girls over to Lake Merritt to row.

After the summer months, the Section took its long vacation until March, when its activities were renewed with vigor and enthusiasm on the part of its members.

At the present time the Section is comprised not only of the former representatives of all the different organized and unorganized groups of girls throughout the city, but it has been augmented by a few public spirited women who represent no one group of girls but have the leisure and are eager to work for "just girls in general." The addition of these latter few members is extremely gratifying, as it offers the possibility of enlarging the field of activity of the Section to embrace all girls of the city, whether working or leisure class, adult or adolescent.

Appreciating the fact that the crying need of Girls' Recreation Work still is for trained leaders, the Section is again co-operating with the Social Service School of the Polyclinic in promoting a course of lectures on "Social Work in War Time," which will contain several talks on recreational subjects.

The Swimming Problem was solved by the recommendation of the Center Club on Golden Gate avenue at Octavia, where it was discovered that all swimming facilities for girls are obtainable under the proper auspices and at a minimum cost. We are also continuing to issue the tickets for reduced rates at Sutro Baths.

Mr. William Wollner, the Chairman of the Dance Hall Investigating Committee of the Commonwealth Club, addressed the April meeting of the Section on our Dance Hall Problem, and as a result there is already a tentative plan on foot to co-operate with military authorities to provide proper dancing opportunities for the large number of soldiers soon to be in our midst.

Arrangements have again been made for the week-end visits at the Yolanda Cottage; Miss O'Rourke has again distributed a hiking schedule, Mrs. Ericson has also offered a reduced rate excursion to Mount Tamalpais some time in June, so that, although the next meeting of the Section has been left to the discretion of the Chairman, its activities bid fair to continue uninterruptedly throughout the summer months.

At the last monthly meeting, Mr. Eustice M. Peixotto delivered an inspiring message to the members of the Section on "The Future Possibilities of the Girls' Section." However, the probable changes in our civic life, which must inevitably result from the present crisis in our national affairs, make any definite plans for the immediate future activities of the Girls' Section almost impossible, but a broad outline of its policy will be: To stand by in an attitude of "watchful waiting," combined with "preparedness," and a grim determination to succeed in being of service to the community in every way possible. Indeed, rather than to curtail its efforts on account of the grim spectre of war that now looms ahead for us all, the Recreation League, through each of its Sections, should rather double its efforts to fulfill its original ideal, "To promote play and recreation for old and young."

Respectfully submitted,

BLANCHE ANNE SON,  
Chairman Girls' Section.  
May 14th, 1917.

Recreation League of San Francisco,

Phelan Building, San Francisco, Cal.

Gentlemen:

The Legal Section has exhibited no marked activity in the past year and consequently has nothing to report other than the giving of an opinion at the request of the Secretary on the objections by the "Recreation Magazine" to the name of the publication of this organization and the manner of setting up the same.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES DE Y. ELKUS.

## REPORT OF THE PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS SECTION

The Parks and Playgrounds Section centered its efforts upon only one project this year, namely, to convert Jefferson Square into a Playground.

The Committee met some months ago at the John Swett School with other representatives of civic organizations. This conference resulted in the determination of those present to appear at the next session of the Park Commission, asking them to turn that part of Jefferson Square bounded by Golden Gate avenue, Turk, Laguna and Gough streets over to the Playground Commission.

A large delegation consisting of your Chairman, several members of the Recreation League and representatives from other civic organizations appeared before the Park Commission, asking them to grant the above request. The matter was taken under advisement for one week, and the Commission finally decided to grant the demand as soon as the necessary funds for the conversion of this part of the Square into a playground were accumulated.

The Committee appeared several times before the Finance Committee of the Board of Supervisors, urging them to appropriate the necessary funds for this project. We have received considerable encouragement from them and I believe the money will be included in this year's budget.\*

This Section has had considerable assistance from the Board of Education, who passed a resolution asking the Board of Supervisors to lay aside money for this Playground. Many thanks are due to the Honorable Judge Graham, who also became interested and used his influence with one of the Park Commissioners and also with Superintendent Mr. John McLaren. Thanks are also due to Mrs. Benner, who enlisted the interest and co-operation of a great many other organizations.

Respectfully submitted,

I. BECK,  
Chairman Parks and Playgrounds Section.

The President and Members of the Recreation League:  
Gentlemen and Ladies:

The principle of the wider use of our public schools having been recognized by our Board of Education in the appointment of Mr. E. B. deGroot as Director of Social Centers and the development under his wise management of Social Centers in several of our schools, there remains for your Section on Social Centers only the duty of co-operating with Mr. deGroot in seeing that the work done in each Center fills the need of the particular neighborhood.

This we are endeavoring to do and it is a pleasure to report that Centers have been established and are being conducted in several public schools, many of them in remote, outlying sections of our city, where the need of evening activities of a cultured and recreational nature is apparent. A recent visit to the Sunnyside School revealed an entirely inadequate school room, literally packed with an enthusiastic audience of boys and girls, with their parents and friends, eagerly awaiting the arrival of Mr. deGroot with an operator and a generous supply of motion picture films.

One feels instinctively the great need in this particular neighborhood, and the utter inadequacy of the school building, even to meet the educational needs of a growing community.

That the Social Center has come to stay there can be no doubt; and the only question is one of finances, for its costs to run a Social Center.

It is our desire and purpose to co-operate with Mr. deGroot in his efforts to secure larger appropriations and enlarge and develop Social Centers as the growth of San Francisco makes necessary. We do not deem the present moment an opportune time to ask for an increase in funds but rather believe the duty of the hour to be the making of each Center already established the strongest possible influence for good in the community served.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. C. TURNER,  
Chairman.

The Recreation and Social Center Department of the San Francisco Congress of Mothers has had a most active and successful year.

Meetings of the Chairmen, of which we have sixteen, representing the thirty-one schools affiliated with the San Francisco Congress of Mothers, have been held once a month at the Recreation League rooms of San Francisco, 1058-60 Phelan building.

Interesting subjects pertaining to recreation of different kinds, community singing and millinery classes have been the chief topic discussed.

The school clubs most active along these lines are the Polytechnic High, Fremont, Redding, Laguna Honda, Yerba Buena, McKinley and Columbus schools.

\*\$5,000 has been granted in the 1917 budget to the Playground Commission for this purpose.

Community singing classes have been organized in a number of schools and have been very successful as well as entertaining. Ten cents a lesson each is charged by an efficient teacher of music. The idea is to give artistic expression to the love of music, which is dormant in the breast of all men and women. The classes are open to all adults, including girls over sixteen years and young men over eighteen. These classes are held in the public school buildings of the city. The administration of the affairs of the organization is vested in the committee called together by the Recreation League of San Francisco.

Millinery classes have been established in a number of schools; a capable teacher charges ten cents a lesson to teach the mothers the millinery art, and have been most successful.

Dramatics have been an attractive recreation in a number of the high schools during the past year. The Polytechnic High School and the Girls' High School are worthy of personal mention, in that line of recreation.

Physical education may be termed a recreation also, and I think it advisable to mention that the Board of Education stated in one of its reports that \$24,460 had been appropriated this year for physical education in the high schools of the city.

A suggestion of value these trying days is to develop the cultivation of back yards and vacant lots into productive gardens, while being practical and helpful, will also be recreational.

The Recreation League of San Francisco has taken steps to promote the idea of "Community Drama," or in other words the acting and reading of plays by amateur groups, in various centers and organizations in this city. A special committee was appointed by President Lilienthal to promote this form of recreation. Chairman Mrs. J. S. Graham was appointed one of this committee.

MRS. J. S. GRAHAM.

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Adolf Koshland, Chairman

A large number of new subscribers have been secured this year and in almost every case the old memberships have been renewed.

The members are classified as follows:

4 Sustaining Members .....	\$100 a year
10 Associate Members .....	50 a year
25 Affiliated Members at.....	25 a year
170 Contributing Members at.....	5 a year
198 Memberships at .....	1 a year

## PROGRAM AND RECEPTION COMMITTEE

Mrs. E. L. Baldwin, Chairman

The work of this Committee has been to present speakers and guests at the regular monthly meetings at luncheon, and to provide the program for such evening meetings as may be decided upon by the Executive Board, and arranged under the auspices of the Recreation League.

The speakers who have been our honored guests at the meetings during the year are as follows:

September 7, 1916—Chief of Police D. A. White, on "The Policeman as a Friend."

October 12, 1916—Mrs. O. E. Borette of Napa, on the "Recreation in Country Life."

November 9, 1916—Mr. George E. Dickie, Superintendent of Recreation, Oakland, on the "National Congress on Recreation at Grand Rapids."

December 7, 1916—Corporal Peter Peshon, Inspector of Motion Pictures, Police Department, on the "History of Censorship in San Francisco."

February 1, 1917—Rt. Rev. Walter F. Sumner, Bishop of Oregon, on "Recreation—Constructive and Destructive."

March 15, 1917—"The Municipal Recreation Program for the Coming Fiscal Year"; speakers, Rev. D. O. Crowley and Miss Agnes Regan for the Playground Commission; Dr. A. A. D'Ancona, for the Board of Education.

April 12, 1917—Mr. Luther Whiteman of the U. S. Forest Service, on "Recreation in the National Forests."

# Members of the Recreation League of San Francisco

May 1, 1916, to April 30, 1917

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MAKING GARDEN—A POPULAR FORM OF RECREATION IN 1917.

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**C**OMPOSED of over one hundred commercial, civic and philanthropic men's and women's organizations, the **Recreation League of San Francisco** represents the public conscience in matters of recreation and play. It has been instrumental in starting many movements for bettering the civic and social conditions in the community. It has multiplied recreational opportunities for young and old in all parts of the city.

The League acts as a center of intercommunication for all organizations interested in recreation in any form and makes possible co-operative effort for common ends.

Its purpose is to promote and assist organizations which further healthful sports, wholesome amusement or just plain fun.

It endeavors to discourage and attack types of recreation which in its judgment have a debasing influence on society.

It seeks to establish the importance of wholesome recreation as a part of sane living in the minds of the people and to set up high standards of recreation in the community.



